

CLAIMS

1. A network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipments, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the

authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function.

2. A network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipments, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected

to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function,

the conference management server comprising:

input/output means for inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the presentation is outputted, and for inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the material data is outputted;

conference management information preparation means for preparing conference management information relating to the conference;

storage means for associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the presentation data is presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the presentation data and the time information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the

material data is presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the material data and the time information, and for storing the conference management information prepared by the conference management information preparation means; and

proceedings data preparation means for arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with the time information and thus preparing proceedings data.

3. The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the storage means stores the format of the data generated by the generating electronic equipment, and

the proceedings data preparation means arranges the data in accordance with the format stored in the storage means.

4. The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein a camera device for imaging the contents of the conference is further connected with the communication network, and

the storage means associates image data and audio data picked up by the camera device with time information indicating when the image data and audio data are picked up by the camera device and thus storing the image data and audio data and the time information.

5. The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proceedings data preparation means prepares proceedings data for displaying

presentation data and material data presented in the same time period, on the same screen.

6. The network conferencing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the input/output means inputs memorandum data generated at a chairman terminal having the proceedings control function, of the attendant electronic equipments, and prepares time information indicating when the memorandum data is inputted, and

the storage means associates the memorandum data with the time information and thus storing the memorandum data and the time information.

7. A proceedings preparation method for a network conferencing system in which an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, a plurality of attendant electronic equipments, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipments, are connected via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation

presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function, the method comprising the steps of:

 during presentation by the presentation function of the attendant electronic equipment,

 inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the presentation is outputted, while inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the material data is outputted;

 preparing conference management information relating to the conference;

 associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment

with the time information indicating when the presentation data is presented and thus storing the presentation data and the time information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the material data is presented and thus storing the material data and the time information; and

arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with the time information and thus preparing proceedings data.

8. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the format of the data generated by the generating electronic equipment is stored, and

the data is arranged in accordance with the stored format.

9. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein a camera device for imaging the contents of the conference is further connected with the communication network,

image data and audio data picked up by the camera device are associated with time information indicating when the image data and audio data are picked up by the camera device, and the image data and audio data and the time information are thus stored, and

proceedings data is prepared using the image data and audio data.

10. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein proceedings data for displaying presentation data and material data presented in the same time

period, on the same screen, is prepared.

11. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein memorandum data generated at a chairman terminal having the proceedings control function, of the attendant electronic equipments, is inputted, and time information indicating when the memorandum data is inputted is prepared, and

the memorandum data is associated with the time information, and the memorandum data and the time information are thus stored.

12. A conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, and a plurality of attendant electronic equipments via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected

to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function, the conference management server comprising:

input/output means for inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the presentation is outputted, and for inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the material data is outputted;

conference management information preparation means for preparing conference management information relating to the conference;

storage means for associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the presentation data is presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the presentation data and the time information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the material data is presented, generated by the input/output means, and thus storing the

material data and the time information, and for storing the conference management information prepared by the conference management information preparation means; and

proceedings data preparation means for arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with the time information and thus preparing proceedings data.

13. The conference management server as claimed in claim 12, wherein the storage means stores the format of the data generated by the generating electronic equipment, and

the proceedings data preparation means arranges the data in accordance with the format stored in the storage means.

14. The conference management server as claimed in claim 12, wherein a camera device for imaging the contents of the conference is further connected with the communication network, and

the storage means associates image data and audio data picked up by the camera device with time information indicating when the image data and audio data are picked up by the camera device and thus storing the image data and audio data and the time information.

15. The conference management server as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proceedings data preparation means prepares proceedings data for displaying presentation data and material data presented in the same time period, on the same

screen.

16. The conference management server as claimed in claim 12, wherein the input/output means inputs memorandum data generated at a chairman terminal having the proceedings control function, of the attendant electronic equipments, and prepares time information indicating when the memorandum data is inputted, and

the storage means associates the memorandum data with the time information and thus storing the memorandum data and the time information.

17. A proceedings preparation method for a conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a generating electronic equipment for generating the contents of presentation to be presented by the output electronic equipment, and a plurality of attendant electronic equipments via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipments having an information input/output function for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipments and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation function for presenting the contents of presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing function for browsing the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function of the other attendant electronic equipments using the output electronic equipment, an authentication function for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipments at a conference, an equipment management function for managing the state of each

electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display function for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipments with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management function, and a proceedings control function for obtaining information for preparing the proceedings by using the contents of presentation presented by the presentation function, the method comprising the steps of:

during presentation by the presentation function of the attendant electronic equipment,

inputting presentation data presented by the presentation function using the output electronic equipment, from the attendant electronic equipment, then outputting the presentation data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the presentation is outputted, while inputting material data generated by the generating electronic equipment, then outputting the material data to the output electronic equipment and preparing time information indicating when the material data is outputted;

preparing conference management information relating to the conference;

associating the presentation data presented by the output electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the presentation data is presented and thus storing the presentation data and the time information, while associating the material data generated by the generating electronic equipment with the time information indicating when the material data is presented and thus storing the material data and

the time information; and

arranging the conference management information, the presentation data and the material data in accordance with the time information and thus preparing proceedings data.

18. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the format of the data generated by the generating electronic equipment is stored, and the data is arranged in accordance with the stored format.

19. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a camera device for imaging the contents of the conference is further connected with the communication network,

image data and audio data picked up by the camera device are associated with time information indicating when the image data and audio data are picked up by the camera device, and the image data and audio data and the time information are thus stored, and

proceedings data is prepared using the image data and audio data.

20. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein proceedings data for displaying presentation data and material data presented in the same time period, on the same screen, is prepared.

21. The proceedings preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein memorandum data generated at a chairman terminal having the proceedings control function, of the attendant electronic equipments, is inputted,

time information indicating when the memorandum data is inputted is prepared,
and

the memorandum data is associated with the time information, and the
memorandum data and the time information are thus stored.